Projects under Border Road Organisation

1997. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Road Organisation has undertaken some major projects for development/construction of roads/bridges in the country;

(b) if so, the projects already under execution and the new ones proposed to be taken up;

(c) whether there has been any inordinate delay and corresponding cost overrun in completion of the projects already under execution; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Works on 450 roads and 53 bridges of strategic and operational importance and on other 117 roads and 40 bridges of various Agencies are at various stages of construction. Work on 77 new bridges are planned to be taken up during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) Road works are taken up by BRO as per the priority accorded to each by the Army HQ and the budget allocations made available every year. Time and cost overrun do take place in some cases. The main reasons for which are given below :—

(i) Delays in land acquisition/and uncertainty in award of compensation.

(ii) Delay in obtaining Forest/Environment clearance.

(iii) Change in priority accorded by Army HQ.

(iv) Change in drawing and design in case of execution of Bridges due to unpredictable sub-soil characteristics and change in the course of rivers.

(v) Militancy and insurgency.